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ATHEKTON URBAN DISTRICT  
COUNCIL.

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# Health and Sanitary Reports

## STATISTICS

Year Ending December 31st, 1917.



J. MARSH, Principal Officer.

W. JEPSON, Sanitary Commissioner.



# URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL, ATHERTON.

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## Public Health Department.

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ATHERTON, APRIL, 1920.

*To the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee.*

GENTLEMEN,

I beg to submit my Annual Report upon the Health of the District during the year 1919.

The District lies upon the coal measure, with a subsoil of clay. The chief occupations of the District are Collieries, Textile Factories, Nut and Bolt Works, whilst a considerable number of the inhabitants are employed by the South Lancashire Tramway Co.

The Mines and Factories are all kept in good sanitation, and work is carried on under good conditions. There is of course a preponderance of cases of Chest Trouble, such as Bronchitis and Pneumonia amongst the workers in the Mills.

The **Population** (estimated by the Registrar General) of the District, was for the purpose of Death Rate, 19,574; for the Birth Rate 20,390. At the Census in 1911, the population was 18,982.

The **Number of Deaths** from all causes was 242, giving a Rate of 12·4 per 1,000 inhabitants as compared to 17·9 last year; 12·3 for 1917; 14·4 for 1916; 13·11 for 1915; and a mean of 13·6 for the 10 years 1908 to 1917. The cause of death is detailed in Table I.

The **Total Number of Births** registered in the District was 373, of which 187 were males and 186 females, giving a rate of 18·2 per 1,000 inhabitants, as compared to 19·3 in 1918; 19·3 in 1917; 21·2 in 1916 and a mean of 25·5 for the 10 years 1908 to 1917.

The **Deaths of Infants under one year** were 32, giving a rate of 85 per 1,000 babies born, as compared to 138 in 1918 and a mean of 128 during the 10 years 1909—1918.

The **Infectious Diseases** notified number 423, details of which are appended.

Scarlet Fever ...	...	...	...	39
Diphtheria ...	...	...	...	82
Typhoid Fever ...	...	...	...	1
Erysipelas ...	...	...	...	22
Puerperal Fever ...	...	...	...	1
Pneumonia ...	...	...	...	23
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ...	...	...	...	7
Malaria ...	...	...	...	23
Dysentery ...	...	...	...	2
Tuberculosis ...	...	...	...	32
(Pulmonary 17, Non-Pulmonary 14, General 1)				
Measles ...	...	...	...	191
TOTAL ...				<hr/> 423 <hr/>

Decreases during the year were—

Diphtheria ...	...	82	as compared to 107 in 1918
Typhoid Fever ...	...	1	„ 2 „
Tuberculosis (all forms) ...	...	32	„ 46 „
Measles ...	...	191	„ 489 „

Increases were—

Scarlet Fever ...	...	39	„ 7 „
Erysipelas ...	...	22	„ 13 „
Puerperal Fever ...	...	1	„ 0 „
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ...	...	7	„ 4 „

For many years I have felt that certain items, such as stoving rooms, supplying disinfectants, &c., in the methods adopted for the prevention of Infectious diseases, were of doubtful utility, and I am more convinced in the light of past experience, that it is a waste of money. All Infectious Diseases are the result of infection direct or indirect from the person infected, and are caused by specific micro-organisms. The disinfection, so called, of houses by stoving and the disinfection of drains, etc., by so called disinfectants, has practically no effect on such micro-organisms. In addition, people are imbued with a false sense of security, and are inclined to overlook the essential details, which are Fresh Air and Cleanliness of person and things.

The **Deaths from Infectious Diseases** numbered 86, of which 7 were from Measles ; 4, Whooping Cough ; 8, Diphtheria ; 33, Influenza ; 17, Tuberculosis (all kinds), and 17, Pneumonia.

In my last Annual Report I made special reference to Diphtheria and Influenza.

It will be noted that the number of notifications of Diphtheria again out-number those of Scarlet Fever. 82—39. Beyond that there is nothing to excite further comment.

**School closure** was adopted for Measles in February—March, for 3 weeks, and in October—November, for 4 weeks.

I have adopted the plan of closing all Infant Departments of all Schools in the central portion of the district at the first indication of Measles in any single School, whether scholars in other schools are attacked or not. Bearing in mind that measles is most infectious in its early stages—that those early stages cannot be recognised from a common cold—that measles is acknowledged to be a school disease, and that, chiefly, it attacks children under 5 years of age ; also that closure of Infant Departments entails little loss to Education and a direct gain to the health of the child, early closure seems to be the only logical method of dealing with a threatened epidemic.

I am of opinion that this action has considerably lessened the Infectivity and Death Rates.

I regret that the compulsory notification of Measles has been withdrawn as, in my opinion, it was a method of ascertaining the first onset of an epidemic, and had an indirect influence upon decreasing the number of deaths.

The **Deaths from Tuberculosis** numbered 17, showing a death rate of 0·56 per 1,000, as compared to 0·84 last year, and a mean 0·93 for 10 years 1909 to 1918. The decline in this disease has not been so great as one might reasonably have expected. For many years I have expressed the opinion that the whole question of dealing with Tuberculosis is summed up in **Better Housing Conditions**, and **improved Milk Supply**, and until these conditions are tackled in a thorough and whole hearted manner, Tuberculosis will still remain. It is simply a question of air space—for human beings and cattle. Tuberculosis Schemes—Sanatorias—Tuberculosis Colonies are all dependent for success, upon these conditions, and are useless without them.

I base my opinion upon the fact that predisposing conditions under which Tubercle can be established are, over crowding of dwelling-houses and Tuberculous milk—that given Hygienic conditions in the above, the Tubercle Bacillus has a hard fight for existence—that even where it exists, the people have so much greater resisting power, that it cannot establish itself and that, if, and when established, there is so much greater likelihood of the arrest of the disease.



I therefore urge those in authority, from the Ministry of Health to the Local Authorities, to concentrate upon Improved Housing, and a clean Milk Supply, when I am firmly convinced that the need for "Schemes," Sanatorias and Colonies will cease to exist.

The **Infant Welfare** work continues to show good progress. The mortality 85 per 1,000 for a district such as ours, is low.

The attendance at the Centre number 1227, giving an average of 26.1 per session. New attendances numbered 100. The sessions are held weekly: Tuesdays at 2-4.5 p.m. Dried milk is sold at little over cost price, and any surplus is used in allowing any mother who is in temporary distress to have the milk free, or at a nominal price, either for herself or her child.

The Infant Welfare work however is handicapped by the shortness of Staff. One Health Visitor not being sufficient for the needs. This view was approved by the District Council, and the appointment of an increase of Nursing Staff was adopted, but the Ministry of Health (who do not seem to appreciate the needs of a District such as ours) vetoed this increase, with the consequence that neither the general nursing of the inhabitants, nor the visiting of infants can be promptly and effectively done.

Most people—and all Medical Men—are aware that many lives are saved through good nursing. It naturally follows that some are lost by reason of want of good nursing. There should be no suspicion of this, in a district such as ours—yet the Nursing Association was languishing through want of funds, and even at its best employed only one nurse for the 20,000 inhabitants.

In my opinion the time has come for all the nursing personnel, (general nurses—infant welfare nurses and midwives) to be embodied under one control (and that control the Sanitary Authority) when a more uniform standard of work would be expected—and could be maintained.

**Farms and Cowsheds** have been visited during the year. There is not much change to report from that which obtained 10 years ago.

Cleanliness of Milk supply is perhaps above the average, but that average is bad, and until vast improvements takes place in the conditions appertaining to the production of milk, this commodity is bound to have an adverse influence upon the health of children.

We have still the old fashioned dread of fresh air. Cows are still bound by the neck for the winter months without exercise, with every crack and cranny stopped up, and without a breath of fresh air; apart from danger to health, these methods are cruel to cattle, and not worthy of an enlightened period.

The Regulation with regard to cleaning out horse manure heaps once a week, during the breeding season of flies, has had a great effect in lessening the number of these pests.

The **Water Supply** has been abundant and satisfactory.

**Scavenging** is done by the Council's workmen, and has been done in a satisfactory manner.

**Schools** are for the most part in good condition. In one or two schools, the fear of "draughts" tends to reduce the efficiency of ventilation.

It will be a great step forward towards the Prevention of Tuberculosis and Infectious diseases generally, when all Schools become "Open-air School," and especially so when Infant Departments become looked upon, not so much from an Education point of view, but as Nurseries where "Infants" can spend the day under hygienic conditions.

The great requirement of the Town is houses for the working classes. When this need is supplied, and Schools are reconstructed as above, there will most certainly be a marked improvement in the Public Health.

Under the Council's Housing Scheme there are already 4 houses either built and occupied or in course of erection, and a further 120 houses are to be erected as soon as possible, so that this requirement may soon be expected to be fulfilled.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

*(Signed)* JAMES MARSH,

Medical Officer of Health.

TABLE I.  
**ATHERTON URBAN DISTRICT.**

***Causes of Death during the Year 1919.***  
**(Civilians only).**

CAUSES OF DEATH.	Males.	Females.
All causes ... ..	111	132
Measles ... ..	3	4
Whooping Cough ... ..	2	2
Diphtheria and Croup ... ..	1	7
Influenza ... ..	15	18
Pulmonary Tuberculosis ... ..	6	5
Tuberculosis Meningitis ... ..	...	2
Other Tuberculosis Diseases ... ..	3	1
Cancer, malignant disease ... ..	4	4
Rheumatic Fever ... ..	...	1
Meningitis ... ..	1	1
Organic Heart Disease ... ..	10	23
Bronchitis ... ..	14	17
Pneumonia (all forms) ... ..	8	9
Other Respiratory Diseases ... ..	2	...
Diarrhoea, &c., (under 2 years) ... ..	5	...
Appendicitis and Typhlitis ... ..	1	...
Nephritis and Bright's Disease ... ..	1	2
Puerperal Fever ... ..	...	1
Parturition, apart from Puerperal Fever ... ..	...	3
Congenital Debility, &c. ... ..	5	4
Violence, apart from Suicide ... ..	6	3
Suicide ... ..	1	...
Other defined diseases ... ..	21	25
Causes ill-defined or unknown ... ..	2	...
Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age		
Total ... ..	20	12
Total Births ... ..	187	186
Legitimate ... ..	184	177
Illegitimate ... ..	3	9

Population—For Birth Rate, 20,390; for Death Rate, 19,574.



TABLE II.  
***DISTRICT OF ATHERTON.***

						Per 1,000 of Population.				Rate of Deaths under 1 year to 1,000 Births.
						Birth- rate.	Death- rate.	Epidemic Death rate.	Phthisis Death rate.	
1919	...	...	...	...	...	18·2	12·4	1·22	0·56	85
1918	...	...	...	...	...	19·3	17·9	2·54	0·84	138
Mean of 10 years 1909-1918						24·5	14·0	1·90	0·93	128
Increase or Decrease in 1919 on—										
Previous Year						-1·1	-5·5	-1·32	-0·28	-53
Ten Years' Average						-6·3	-1·6	-0·68	-0·37	-43

TABLE XV.—Birth-rate, Death-rate, and Analysis of Mortality during the Year 1919.  
(Provisional figures. Populations estimated to the middle of 1919 have been used for the purposes of this Table.)

Birth-rate per 1,000 Total Popula- tion.		Annual Death-rate per 1,000 Civilian Population.								Rate per 1,000 Births.		Percentage of Total Deaths.*				
		All Causes	Enteric Fever	Small-pox.	Measles.	Scarlet Fever.	Whooping Cough.	Diphtheria.	Violence.	Diarrhoea and Enteritis (under 2 years).	Total Deaths under One Year.	Deaths in Public Institutions.	Certified Causes.	Inquest Cases.	Uncertified Causes of Death	
England and Wales	...	18.5	13.8	0.01	0.00	0.10	0.03	0.07	0.13	0.47	9.59	89	23.9	92.5	6.2	1.3
96 Great Towns including London (Census Populations exceeding 50,000)	...	19.0	13.8	0.01	0.00	0.13	0.04	0.07	0.14	0.45	12.21	93	29.2	92.3	6.9	0.8
148 Smaller Towns (Census Populations 20,000—50,000)	...	18.3	12.6	0.01	0.00	0.10	0.03	0.08	0.12	0.39	8.67	90	16.6	93.6	4.9	1.5
London	...	18.3	13.4	0.01	0.00	0.08	0.03	0.05	0.18	0.47	16.22	85	44.7	91.2	8.6	0.2

\* Non-civilians are included in these figures for England and Wales but not for other areas.

**Your Health Visitor submits her Annual Report, as follows:—**

*To the Chairman and Members of the Urban District Council of Atherton.*

GENTLEMEN,

APRIL 24th, 1920.

I beg to submit my Annual Report for the year 1919, on the births, deaths, and health of Infants and young children.

The total number of births notified for the year is 411. Of these, 205 were males, and 196 females.

Still births, 28—21 males and 7 females.

Illegitimate, 18—of these 6 were born in Institution and  
belonging to other towns.

344 notified by Midwives.

54 „ „ Doctors.

13 „ „ Registrar.

Infants fed naturally from birth, 300; 100 fed naturally for a month only; 77 fed artificially from birth.

Total number of deaths for the year is 32. Under 1 month, 16 (4 of these deaths were premature births and 4 congenital defects); over 1 month and under 3 months, 3; over 3 months and under 6 months, 4; over 6 months and under 12 months, 9.

During the year a large number of infants and young children have suffered from Bronchitis and Pneumonia; a number from Influenza, Whooping Cough, and Measles.

Cases of Measles notified, 191.

I have visited 50 ante-natal cases, all these mothers informing me of their condition themselves.

Number of visits paid to expectant mothers, infants and young children, cases of Measles, cases of Influenza, is—2994.

Visits to children from 1 to 5 years, 2,000.

	Special Visits.
191 cases of Measles	191
6 complication Measles	20
2 „ of Parturition	20
10 cases of Thrush	20
8 „ Ophthalmia Neonatorum	50

All these cases completely recovered, 1 case attending Manchester Eye Hospital

58 Ante-natal Cases	60
12 cases Whooping Cough	20
40 „ Influenza	50

I am, your obedient servant,

MARY E. SMITH,

Health Visitor.

# ATHERTON URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

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## Sanitary Inspector's Report,

For the Year ending December 31st, 1919.

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*To the Chairman and Members of the Atherton Urban District Council.*

GENTLEMEN,

I beg to submit my Annual Report of the work done in the Sanitary Department during the past year, together with the particulars of the nuisances abated and improvements effected thereby.

During the year inspections have been made in all parts of the district, particularly where the yards, &c., are common to two or more houses.

Mr. Superintendent Whitehead of the County Police has kindly supplied me with particulars of the number and nature of samples of foods, purchased in the District for analysis by the Public Analyst:—

Milk .29; Pepper .2; Lard .2; Margarine .2; Cheese .1; Coffee .1. All of which were stated to be genuine.

Beer .5 (Prices & Discription Order), proceedings were taken in one case, and order made to pay costs.

There are twenty-six workshops on the register, together with twenty-one bake-houses and three resturants.

There are also twenty-one shops for the preparation and sale of Chipped Potatoes and Fish, and twelve premises where the manufacture and sale of Ice Cream is carried on. All these premises are regularly visited and inspected and as far as it is possible they are carried on in a cleanly and satisfactory manner.

Slaughter-houses, of which there are eleven, two being registered and nine licensed annually. They are generally kept in good order and lime-washed, but only two of them have been in use during the year owing to the food regulations.

There are twenty-one Cow-keepers and Dairymen who reside in the District, and in connection with these, sixty-seven visits and Inspections were made to farms and premises.

In addition there are eleven Dairymen and Purveyors of milk who reside outside the District. The lime-washing and cleansing was done in every instance although repeated calls had to be made in one or two instances before the work was done.

In connection with the Housing, Town Planning, &c., Act, 1909, I have inspected and reported upon fifty-nine houses. In connection with these and general complaints, the defects consist principally of defective roofs, spoutings, damp walls, &c., great difficulty being experienced owing to the shortage of materials and men in getting repairs done.

Details of these defects are given below:—

Defective roofs	...	...	...	...	...	93
„ and damp walls		...	...	...	...	25
„ spoutings and rain pipes			...	...	...	71
„ slopstone pipes	...	...	...	...	...	39
„ and untrapped gullies			...	...	...	12
„ pavements in back yards		...	...	...	...	2
„ window sash cords	...	...	...	...	...	57
„ windows...	...	...	...	...	...	2
„ ceilings	...	...	...	...	...	1
„ floor in bedroom		...	...	...	...	1
„ W.C. Pedestals...		...	...	...	...	15
„ flushing cisterns and pipes		...	...	...	...	69
„ and blocked drains	...	...	...	...	...	11
„ scullery floor	...	...	...	...	...	1
„ ashpails replaced		...	...	...	...	9
„ and dangerous fireplaces			...	...	...	1
Water in cellars	...	...	...	...	...	2
Dilapidated and dangerous closet walls				...	...	5
Large well in back yard filled up			...	...	...	11
Accumulation of Manure, &c.	...		...	...	...	2
						419

In connection with these 47 Informal and 62 Statutory Notices were served.



Number of cases of Infectious Diseases —

Scarlet Fever	...	...	39
Typhoid Fever	...	...	1
Diphtheria	...	...	82
Erysipelas	...	...	22
Puerperal Fever	...	...	1
Ophthalmia Neonotorum	...	...	7
Pneumonia	...	...	33
Malaria	...	...	23
Dysentery	...	...	2
			<hr/>
			210
Measles	...	...	191
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	...	...	17
Non-Pulmonary	„	...	15
			<hr/>
			433
			<hr/>

In connection with these 148 rooms were disinfected and also 169 Articles, including Books, Articles of Clothing, &c., were disinfected. Three beds, four mattresses, 10 pillows, &c., were destroyed.

There are 2290 fresh water closets and 1415 waste water closets. There were 728 cases of water closets and waste water closets being blocked. 55 privy-middens with 85 closets thereto, which are principally outside the area drained by the existing sewers.

It is expected that when circumstances permit to convert the whole of the existing privy-middens.

There are 1,134 dry ashpits and 1,405 Portable Receptacles for refuse, which are cleared weekly.

Number of Ashbins cleared 72,160

Number of Ashpits cleared 7,869

1,810 loads weighing 2,615 tons, were removed to and destroyed at the Destructor, and 2,204 loads were tipped on farms.

Number of privy-middens cleared, 312. 182 loads of which refuse was tipped on farms.

There was also destroyed at the Destructor, 15 Beds, 79 Straw Mattresses and 47 Dogs.

I beg to acknowledge the courtesy and assistance I have received from the members of the Council, the Officials and Office Staff, to all of whom I beg to tender my thanks.

I am, Gentlemen,

Yours faithfully,

KAY JEPSON, A.R.S. Inst.

Certified Inspector of Meat, &c.





